
DIGEST

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HB 548 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Beaulieu

Abstract: Provides for the regulation of certified public accountants and the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of La.

Present law defines "substantial equivalency" or "substantially equivalent".

Proposed law repeals those definitions.

Present law provides qualifications for members of the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of La. (board).

Proposed law adds that board members shall be selected from diverse practice and professional areas, including but not limited to tax, audit, and education.

Present law grants the board powers, including power to cooperate in enforcement with appropriate foreign regulatory authorities, which grant substantially equivalent foreign designations under present law (R.S. 37:76(G)), in instances which have or may result in criminal conviction, loss of license or suspension, admonishment or censure.

Proposed law grants the board powers to cooperate in enforcement with appropriate foreign regulatory authorities, which grant comparable foreign designations under present law (R.S. 37:76(G)), in those instances.

Present law provides that the board may adopt rules governing administration and enforcement of the conduct of holders of a certificate, license, or permit including rules governing substantial equivalency.

Proposed law amends present law, changing substantial equivalency to mobility practice privileges.

Present law provides educational requirements for an applicant for initial issuance of a CPA certificate.

Proposed law requires that an applicant for initial issuance of a CPA certificate show that he has completed one of the following educational pathways:

- (1) A baccalaureate or higher degree plus an additional 30 semester hours conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting

concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.

- (2) A post-baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.
- (3) A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university acceptable to the board, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent as determined by the board to be appropriate.

Proposed law requires that the applicant show the board that he has completed one year of experience before he is issued a certificate on the basis of educational pathways (1) or (2), and two years of experiences on the basis of educational pathway (3).

Present law provides for issuance or renewal of certificates to persons who demonstrate eligibility under the substantial equivalency standard.

Proposed law changes this to persons who demonstrate eligibility under the mobility standard.

Present law provides licensing requirements for applicants who do not qualify under the substantial equivalency standard.

Proposed law amends present law and provides licensing requirements for applicants who do not qualify under the mobility standard.

Present law provides that the board shall issue an active certificate to a person who desires to establish his principal place of business in this state whose CPA qualifications are substantially equivalent to the CPA licensure requirements of present law as determined by the board or its designee.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that the CPA qualifications need be comparable to the CPA licensure requirements of present law.

Present law provides that the board may issue a certificate to a holder of a substantially equivalent foreign designation provided that person received the designation based on educational and examination standards substantially equivalent to those of this state, and completed an experience requirement substantially equivalent to those of this state.

Proposed law amends the standard from "substantially equivalent" to "comparable".

Present law provides for practice privileges without the need to obtain a license as provided in present law for CPAs who have an active, valid license from another state that has substantially equivalent licensure requirements.

Proposed law amends present law to change the standard for mobility practice from outside the state,

and provides that the person with an active valid license in good standing from another state shall have the privileges of active licensees of this state, and will not have to notify or register with the Board provided he shows evidence he has passed the uniform CPA examination and has met one of the following requirements:

- (1) A baccalaureate or higher degree plus an additional 30 semester hours conferred by a college or university, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent, and not less than one year of experience, both as defined by board rule.
- (2) A post-baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent, and not less than one year of experience, both as defined by board rule.
- (3) A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a college or university, the total educational program to include an accounting concentration or equivalent, and not less than two years of experience, both as defined by board rule.

Proposed law provides that an individual whose principal place of business is not in this state and who holds a valid active license as a certified public accountant in good standing from any state as of Dec. 31, 2024, and who, as of that date, had practice privileges in this state under present law shall continue to have all the privileges of active licensees of this state without the need to obtain a license required by present and proposed law or to otherwise notify or register with the board or pay any fee.

Present law requires a fee to be collected by the board for notice under substantial equivalency.

Proposed law repeals that fee.

(Amends R.S. 37:74(B)(1), (H)(2), and (J)(7), 75(G), 76(A)(1), (C)(1)(intro. para.) and (2), (G)(intro. para.) and (3), and 94(A)(1) and (2); Repeals R.S. 37:73(19) and 74.1(3))